

Remarks

Claims 7-11, 13, and 14 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent no. 6,122,483 ("Lo").

Independent claim 7 recites that the devices are organized into groups having similar predicted durations for the subsequent data transmissions. In other words, the claim is concerned with the predicted durations of the actual transmissions, not with how long the devices wait before making those transmissions. By contrast, Lo discloses that the responding subscriber units wait for different periods of time before they respond, so they can be organized into groups based on how long they wait before responding (col. 7 lines 34 – 36), not on the duration of their actual transmissions. In fact, each of the subscriber units of Lo appears to transmit a signal of the same duration, since they each transmit the same type of response (an acknowledgement, col. 7 lines 24-30). It would therefore be impossible to organize Lo's subscriber units into different groups based on the duration of their transmissions, since all those transmissions are the same length, and they would therefore all be placed into the same single group. Lo does not disclose or suggest all the limitations of claim 7.

Claims 8-11 each depends, directly or indirectly, from independent claim 7, and therefore contains the same limitations not disclosed or suggested by the cited reference.

Claims 15, 17, 21, and 23 have been held allowable by the Examiner.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and indication of allowance by the Examiner is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions concerning this application, he or she is requested to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number shown below as soon as possible. If any fee insufficiency or overpayment is found, please charge any insufficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0221.

Respectfully submitted,

Intel Corporation

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/John F. Travis/

John F. Travis
Reg. No. 43,203

Attorney Telephone:

(512) 732-3918

Correspondence Address:

Intel Corporation
c/o Intellevate, LLC
P.O. Box 52050
Minneapolis, MN 55402